

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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47% Increase in Children Recovered by the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force

Since the 1999 legislative mandate, the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) has increased its investigative efforts towards protecting our nation's most valuable resource. Crimes against children have become more complex and insidious as predators prowl the internet for victims. Currently, 60% of MECTF investigations are directed in targeting sexual offenders who use the internet to victimize children or distribute child pornography, and the remaining 40% involve locating missing/abducted children.

MECTF's objective is to reduce the risk of crimes occurring against children. Comparing 2002 to 2003, MECTF had a 19% increase in the number of new investigations, a 6% increase in computer cases, and a 47% increase in children located/recovered.

MECTF is a multi-agency task force comprised of state and local detectives. The investigators include one WSP sergeant, two WSP detectives, a detective from the Lacey Police Department, and most recently, a detective from the Port Orchard Police Department.

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